United Nations A/55/854–S/2001/272

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 March 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 March 2001 from His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-30540 (E) 270301

Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 8 February 2001 (A/55/776-S/2001/119) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 30 January 2001 (A/55/755-S/2001/96). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of international air traffic regulations are void and groundless under international law. Every precaution is being taken for the safety of navigation of civil air traffic during the activities of Turkish state aircraft within international airspace, where the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in my previous letters, at the root of these allegations lies the illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the entire island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim contradicts the present reality in Cyprus, namely the existence of two independent States — a reality which came about as a result of the forceful destruction of the partnership Republic of Cyprus in 1963 by the Greek Cypriot side, and its subsequent failed attempts to annex the island to Greece.

The Greek Cypriot administration, hiding behind the false label of the "government of Cyprus", has been pursuing a policy of escalation paralleled by a rearmament programme implemented within the framework of the "Joint Military Doctrine" signed with Greece.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Politis* of 9 March 2001 reported that Greece, responding to a request by the Greek Cypriot administration, will be donating four Bell-type helicopters to the Greek Cypriot National Guard. According to press reports, this was confirmed by the Greek Defence Minister, Mr. Tzohatzopoulos, after a recent meeting in Athens with the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Hasikos. In this connection, the Greek Cypriot daily *Mahi* of 6 March 2001 quoted Mr. Hasikos as stating that "whenever there is a request on the part of the Greek Cypriot side from Greece the response is always positive and each and every military hardware provided to the Greek Cypriot administration by Greece remains on the island".

Furthermore, the Greek Foreign Minister, Mr. Papandreou, during his visit to South Cyprus between 11 and 13 March 2001, made a point of visiting the Paphos Military Air Base, which was constructed within the framework of the "Joint Military Doctrine" and allocated for use of the Greek Air Force, and openly stated

that their joint aim is to increase the military capabilities of the Greek Cypriot administration.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Fileleftheros* of 1 March 2001 reported that new fortifications and military construction along the entire length of the border have been completed and newly constructed sentries have been put into use by the Greek Cypriot National Guard.

In line with its militarization campaign, the Greek Cypriot administration is organizing annual trips for high school students to military camps. The Greek Cypriot daily *Alithia* of 17 February 2001 reported that by the end of March 2001 all high school students in South Cyprus would visit the military camps and attend military orientation classes.

On behalf of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I strongly protest the hostile policies of the Greek Cypriot side, which exacerbate the crisis of confidence between the two sides and further erode the chances for reconciliation on the basis of mutual respect and recognition of the two sovereign States in Cyprus.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus